

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

BRUSSELS, October 11, 1849.

To the Editor of the National Era:

The date shows you that I have left the capital of Prussia for that of Belgium. The journey here was a delightful one, the weather being cool and bracing, and the country a well-improved agricultural one, affording many agreeable if not romantic views. Perhaps the only truly picturesque scene between Berlin and Cologne is the one near Minden, of the *Gate of Westphalia*. I remained all night at Minden, a fortified town of some 12,000 inhabitants, and, rising early in the morning, visited the principal churches, the court house, the markets, and the fortifications. The cathedral is a noble old monument, in the Gothic style of architecture. A little after six o'clock, about twenty persons, all females, were praying silently in different parts of the building. A single priest was officiating at the altar, and his murmured tones seemed to visit in whispering echoes every part of the lofty and vaulted chamber. The light came dimly in through the great windows of stained glass, ornamented with tapestries from sacred history. No one can enter unprepared into such a scene, without feeling deeply impressed, and without a better understanding of the influence exercised by the Catholic religion over the uneducated masses in Europe. The town of Minden is a fair type of the old towns of Prussia. The narrow streets, the first floors on a level with the side-walks, the gable-ends of the houses facing the street—all reminds one of the days when carriages were not permitted to enter towns except on great occasions, when beauty of architecture and comfort were sacrificed to the want of space and the want of money, and when gable-end windows were useful as places from which to throw heavy weights on an enemy below. Many of the streets are not more than ten feet wide. The houses are uncomfortable to the last degree, ill-arranged for the admission of light and the circulation of air. The old towns of Europe certainly justify the Socialists in their attacks on the architecture of civilization, for poor uncomfortable and unhealthy places for the abode of the human species could hardly be devised. The whole town is surrounded by a double line of strong fortifications, which aid greatly in preventing the circulation of air, and have never aided, and are not likely to do so, in defending the place. The river Weser, which is here about two hundred yards wide, washes the wall on one side. A neat bridge, paved with wooden blocks, is thrown over it. From the middle of the bridge, a beautiful view may be had of the celebrated *Gate*, or eastern entrance of Westphalia. The mountain which forms the eastern boundary of this province is here pierced by the beautiful stream of the Weser. On one side the mountain slopes precipitously down to the river, but on the other leaves a narrow valley through which the railroad cars fly on their iron path.

Leaving Minden at half past seven in the morning, and passing through the manufacturing district of Elberfeld and Dusseldorf, one reaches Cologne, on the Rhine, at five in the afternoon. The Rhine at this point is not a river of the extraordinary beauty ascribed to it. It is not deep, its banks are low, and there is nothing to justify the extravagant encomiums of European travelers. I may expose myself to the charge of insensibility to the beauties of natural scenery, but must say that I rather suspect the sincerity of the admiration expressed by Americans of the Rhine and its scenery. There are many beautiful residences upon its banks, many smiling fields and rich landscapes, but, if I may judge from the statements of intelligent travellers, nothing to compare with the magnificent view on the Hudson or on the Upper Mississippi. My present impression is, that if the Rhine were placed in the same country with the modest Ohio, tourists would prefer the latter. But on this point I must be more explicit, and shall have a better right to be so, after taking a trip upon this famous European river. It is not surprising that English travellers, who have seen nothing better than the short and muddy Thames, should go into ecstasies at their first view of the Rhine, but for an American this is not so natural. Indeed, since my sojourn in Europe, I have learned to distrust the colored statements in our books of travel. I have never been able to get up an extravagant admiration of the Seine at Paris, which is not so large as the Cumberland at Nashville; nor of the Spree at Berlin, which is nothing more than a broad canal; nor of the Rhine at Cologne, which is not as broad, as deep, or as crowded with vessels, as the Ohio at Cincinnati.

The town of Cologne, of which so much has been said and sung, is full of dirty streets, too narrow to allow two carriages to pass each other, and badly built houses. The chief curiosity of the place is the immense cathedral, which is certainly the most majestic pile, and has been often compared in grandeur to St. Peter's at Rome. It rises proudly up above all the other buildings in the city, and from its ruined towers one can see the Rhine to a great distance winding its way through its rich valley. Within the walls of this building are several different places for holding Divine worship, and three or four congregations might assemble in as many parts of the church without incommencing each other. The principal altar is magnificently decorated and surrounded by statues. The floor is of the richest marble, of variegated colors, and laid in mosaic. In front and at either side are placed rows of velvet cushioned chairs, which the priests alone are permitted to occupy. The whole is surrounded by a high iron railing, through which the laity are allowed to see the ceremonies. In other parts of the church are to be seen tombs of deceased bishops and archbishops, some in marble, some in bronze, but all of them ornamented with the statues of the prelates whose virtues they commemorate. Numerous niches in the walls contain statues of bishops, saints, the Virgin Mary, Jesus, angels, and figures emblematic of the different cardinal virtues, ranging through every degree of nudity.

Everybody who visits Cologne expects of course to visit the Cologne-water manufactory, and buy a bottle of the genuine article from the establishment of Jean Marie Farina, the world-renowned inventor of this delightful perfume. But how to choose among the five or six houses, each of which lay claim to the honor of having been that of Farina, is a puzzling business. Each one has its advocates, and each proclaims its pretensions on glaring signboards and in the city papers. The one which seems to have the best-founded claims is a very handsome three-story brick building, which fronts on an oblong square, used as a fruit and vegetable market. It is not true, as some of my young readers have believed, that there is a river at Cologne which runs nothing but Cologne-water, and from which the perfume is bottled up and sent to America. This idea is pretty general among young people, but is a great error. The trade here in this perfume seems to occupy a large portion of the community. Most of the shop windows are garnished with beautifully labelled bottles, bearing the name of Farina. It is not probable, however, that much of this perfume reaches the United States, as our own druggists manufacture Cologne quite as good; and the necessary labels, precise imitations of Farina's, can be had at very cheap rates in New York and Philadelphia.

The fortifications of Cologne are among the strongest in Europe. The wall on the river side is pierced in its whole length with loop-holes, and on each side of the river a strong fort is so placed as to sweep the river with its batteries. There are only three or four gates, the approach to some of which is only by draw bridges, thrown over the deep moats on the outside of the walls. Guards are regularly stationed at all the gates. A narrow bridge, floating on boats, and elevated only a few feet above the water, connects the two banks of the Rhine. It can be divided at any time so as to permit the passage of troops, and it is a great thoroughfare for foot passengers, and towards nightfall is generally crowded with persons of all classes, who resort to the balls, concerts, and drinking houses, in the town of Dutch, opposite Cologne.

The scenery between Cologne and Brussels is often beautiful. The face of the country is varied, with hill and dale, mountain and valley. The railroad passes through the manufacturing town of Verviers, in the heart of the Ardennes, Mechin, remarkable for the singularity of its old and quaint architecture, and famous for its lace manufacture. But the Mechin lace has ceased to be made there, having been transferred to the city of Brussels.

Brussels is a favorite resort, not only of the English nobility and gentry, but of strangers from all parts of Europe. The facilities of educating a family are very good, and the luxuries of the city are much cheaper than in most of the European capitals. The communication with London is daily, and with Paris almost hourly, by an excellent railroad. The most prominent object in Brussels is the noble spire of the town hall, whose light and elegant form may be seen for many miles around. In the middle of the town, and in the arms of a brazen statue of Saint Michel, the patron saint of Brussels, killing the dragon. The main body of the building was built by the Spaniards many hundred years ago. Its halls are still ornamented with tapestries of the time of Charles V., with paintings of Marie Theresa and other Austrian sovereigns, as well as with many other memorials of the domination of Spain and Austria. Every Sunday morning, a dog and bird market is held in the town hall.

The place of the King is a large building of very plain architecture, but said to be beautifully finished in the interior. The same may be said of the Palace of the Prince of Orange.

The Palace Royal is surrounded by fine buildings, and in the architectural point of view, Brussels, unless we give that title to the church of St. Gudule. The lofty towers of this old building are inhabited by the rooks, who feel themselves in surly in their airy palaces. Workmen have been repairing the Gothic ornaments of the front for thirty-five years past, and have not yet completed their task. In the body of the church, is, perhaps, the most curious pulpit in Europe. It is carved curiously in wood, and presents at first, to the eye, a confused mass of foliage, flowers, and scrolls, and, on a closer examination, will discover that the apparent confusion of figures is not a "maze without a plan," but represents the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Paradise. The principal figures, the angel with the flaming sword, and our first parents, are immediately below the head of the preacher. The carving has served, no doubt, to divert the attention of many an undevout hearer from the sermons of the reverend cleric.

There is another remarkable pulpit at the church of *Notre Dame de la Chapelle*. It is so built as to represent a hollow rock, in which Elias is concealing himself from the fury of Jezebel. The workmanship is not so elegant as that of the pulpit in St. Gudule, but the effect is quite as striking.

The Palace of Justice occupies the site of a Jesuit convent suppressed in '73, and is built on the model of the Rotunda at Rome. It was finished in 1823.

I had the pleasure of visiting the room in which Charles V signed his abdication, and of standing on the very spot which he occupied at the moment of affixing his signature. I availed myself of the occasion to visit the prison of the Kings of Europe, which would soon follow his example. They could show their patriotism in no better way.

The Park of Brussels is a square containing some twenty acres, filled with fine old trees, and surrounded by a wall of iron. It is the residence of the King's palace and the row of buildings containing the chambers of the Senate and the lower House, together with the offices of the different Ministers.

The exterior boulevards, and the Green Alley, afford beautiful promenades, but the citizens of Brussels appear to prefer the crowded avenues of the park.

In my next, I will give you an account of a visit to the field of Waterloo. Until next week, then, adieu.

THE AMERICAN BOARD—SLAVERY.

FOR THE NATIONAL ERA.

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THE TERMS.

We again call the attention of our readers to the following extract from the "Terms" of the Era:

"Every subscriber renewing his subscription, and sending two new subscribers, shall have the three copies for five dollars."

A subscriber sends us five dollars for three new subscribers, and thinks he carries out the spirit of the proposition. Undoubtedly. A postmaster, not a subscriber, also sends us three new subscribers on the same terms, presuming that we will not object. Certainly not. The only difference between these cases, and those in which subscribers pay their money to agents, is, that in the former the subscribers secure to themselves the benefit of the commission. This does not interfere with our regular agents, but rather helps them, by multiplying our readers, and thus extending the field for their operations.

We hope each subscriber, as his subscription runs out, will bear in mind that, by a little exertion, he may secure two new subscribers, and supply himself and then for five dollars.

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 8, 1849.

☞ We have just received through Mr. Farnham, bookseller on Pennsylvania Avenue, a large package of very valuable publications, which shall be duly noticed.

☞ The steamship Hibernia did not make her time this trip, so that our usual letters from Europe did not reach us in season for this week's paper.

☞ We are sure none of our readers will fail to read the touchingly beautiful letter from Kossuth to Lord Palmerston, published on our first page.

☞ PORTY.—On the outside and inside of this week's paper the reader will find some real Poetry.

NOTICE.

We hope none of our subscribers will overlook the very interesting Circular sent this week to them in each copy of the Era. It concerns both the editor and the editor, and we shall feel greatly obliged if they will take as much pains in reading it, as he did in writing it. Congress is approaching, and a great many additional subscribers may be had by suitable exertion. We prefer that subscriptions be made by the year, but subscriptions for half a year may be transmitted. As these will embrace about the period of the session of Congress, we have thought it unnecessary to issue any proposals for a session paper, especially as ample reports will appear in our regular issue.

We contemplate several improvements in our next volume, and shall commence it with a corps of invaluable contributors. Our Prospectus will soon appear, and such papers as may copy or notice it will do us a favor that shall be remembered.

SUBSCRIPTIONS EXPIRING AT NO. 151.

We send out this week the bills to the numerous subscribers whose terms expire at No. 151, as well as some others. We hope none will let them drop out, unnoticed, and suffer the time to go by without renewing.

THE FRIEND OF YOUTH.

Last Monday, the *Friend of Youth* was mailed to all its subscribers. As a general desire prevails among our readers to see the paper, next week we shall enclose a specimen number in each copy of the Era.

The paper on which the first number of the *Friend of Youth* is printed, is far inferior in quality to what it is intended, the lot ordered for it having failed to reach here in time. Hereafter, the subscribers may expect paper of the best quality.

The contents of the first number are as follows:

THE FINE FIGURE.—Mrs. E. D. N. Southworth.

THE DANGER OF DISOBEDIENCE.—T. S. Arthur.

TO MY SISTER.—A Poem.—Mrs. S. M. Clark.

Among the Selections, are—

"Look up," "Instructive Incident," "The Mocking Bird," "Canine Reasoning," "The Linnet and the Luce," &c.

EDITORIAL.—*Salutatory, Forgiveness, Kossuth, World's Peace Congress, The Last Time She Saw Her Child, Children Saved from Shipwreck, Judging from Appearances, An Incident and a Lesson, Care for Headache, The Chimney, Morals of War, The Old Elm Tree, and The Motherless, the last two being Poems.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"The Music of the Wind" has melody in it, but it lacks definiteness of object. We fear we cannot find room for it.

"Hungary," and two other pieces, from a young friend in Indiana, are characterized by a healthy tone and some good thoughts, but the author, like ourselves, we apprehend, will find the steps of Parnassus a little too steep to climb without the aid of wings.

"Ho! Freeman, Awake!"—Your turn will come—he patient.

"Thoughts Suggested by the Separation of a Husband and Wife"—Cincinnati—will be published.

"Peace to the World"—is too unequal to be published entire; but there are two stanzas which come to the point with downright earnestness:

"May the Farmers bear rule,
Not Lawyers and Soldiers,
Who destroy the Kingdom
Of Liberty's Pillars."

"Make our Swords into Ploughs,
Our Spears into Hooks,
Tell our children that War
Is not taught in God's books."

"To Miss Alice Carey, The Disappointed?" It shall appear soon.

"The Dying Wife to her Husband"—D. S. Harris. On file for an early insertion.

"My Mary"—D. M. J. Woodson, N. J. It has been delayed longer than we had intended. It shall have a place very soon.

"Autumn Reminiscences," and "Evelyn," thankfully received.

"The Beacon"—by D. C. Ellis—not forgotten.

"Our Own Broad Land," still on order for insertion.

"An Admission"—by T. Wickersham—will be published.

"Novice Mother" will be out next week.

Oriole's favors are a kind reception.

"The Song of Freedom"—by J. Wales—will find a place.

"Light"—by Charles List—next week.

Other Poems under consideration.

Beside these, we have on hand a large number of prose contributions, which will be attended to, as we find room. The communication from J. P. Wilmington, will receive attention next week.

The various favors of Isaac Julian are not overlooked.

LETTER OF SENATOR CHASE.—We shall make room next week for a mainly letter of Senator Chase, which has lately been made the occasion of a coarse, malignant tirade against him in the columns of the Cincinnati Gazette.

ABDUCTION OF SLAVES.—The newspapers report that slaves in large numbers are running off from the Eastern shore of Maryland, the soil of which is pretty well worn out. Late a colored man named Friarbury was committed to Talbot County Jail, on the charge of assisting in the escape of slaves. Two others have been committed on a similar charge to the Centreville Jail.

There is some talk of the Slave owners holding a State Convention to consider what measures may be adopted to stop the evil. We can tell them a better way than this. Let them set free their slaves, and pay them wages, and they could not drive them away.

PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.—A weekly paper with this title appears at Quincy, Illinois. It is to be a family paper, but in politics it advocates the doctrines of Free Democracy. Good luck to it.

THE PEACE CONGRESS—CAPTIOUS OBJECTIONS.

The Peace Congress lately held in Paris attracted the attention of Europe. It was attended by men who have already become historical characters, and its deliberations were characterized by moderation and wise philanthropy. The comments of the London and Paris papers upon its proceedings were, with some exceptions, highly respectful. A few ventured to scoff, but they were among those who sooft at all schemes for improving the condition of man.

Some of the newspapers in this country have manifested a commendable degree of interest in the great cause for the promotion of which the Congress assembled, but the majority are indifferent. Here and there an editor, wiser than mankind generally, pities the "celebrities" that are amusing themselves with the amiable nonsense of peace-making, and very sagaciously remarks, that as Sin is the mother of war, the only way to get rid of the progeny is, to strangle the parent. One of this class of gentlemen, who takes special delight in philosophizing upon the vanity of all movements intended to bring up Society to the full standard of a Christian civilization, condescends to remark of the Peace Convention that "it was filled with celebrities; but, alas! of those to whom celebrity was all—and the influence of sober good sense, and a life of usefulness, but little. Victor Hugo, the novelist; Lamartine, the half-mad poet; Cobden, the free trader; Elihu Burritt, the learned blacksmith; President Mahan, of Oberlin, and such like, constituted the elite of the Convention. It is not strange, then, to find its work, practically, a most signal failure."

It is to be deeply regretted that these unfortunate "celebrities" had not the benefit of the presence of this wise man of the West, whose "sober good sense" might have saved them from the eccentricities of too much genius and learning.

But, without attempting to compare with this Western Luminary the French hero of the greatest political revolution, and the English hero of the greatest commercial revolution of this century, we may venture a few remarks on the following paragraph, which presents a common objection to the Peace movement:

"This Convention, and all other Conventions on this subject, fail utterly for two very sufficient reasons. First—they do not strike at the cause at all, but only one of the effects of that cause. They would say to the river, 'you must not run down hill'—forgetful that while the force of gravity must run down hill, when the cause comes these wars? From the fact that war is your members. But what are these wars? Human desires, passions, interests—diverse, variant, opposite—rival—struggling, and aspiring. Wars spring from these violent and conflicting passions. To propose to talk and legislate mankind out of these passions and interests, is to do nothing else than to attempt the legislation of the tides and the storms."

The argument is, that as war springs from causes inherent in human nature, it can neither be mitigated nor prevented by any agencies which do not directly seek the removal of these causes: War is the effect of Sin—therefore it is useless to attempt to lessen or remove this effect, as it can only be reached through the correction or removal of its cause.

It is obvious that the same objection applies with equal force against all specific movements to reform social or political wrongs. Slavery is an effect of "lust warring in the members"—of human desires, passions, interests. Intemperance is the consequence of the lust of stimulus. Imprisonment for debt is the result of avarice and revenge. Agitation, discussion, conventions, legislation, with a view of remedying these effects, are useless: they can be abated or removed only by striking at the cause, which is to be found in the unregulated lusts and passions of human nature!

To object to the objection in all its logical applications, is to expose its groundlessness. Man is as he is, and he will be as he is, as he was in the days when the debar could be enslaved, and the slave murdered at the will of his masters. But there have been many great improvements in governments, laws, and social systems, since that time. We may not be able to legislate away and revenge out of the heart of an unfeeling creditor, but we may restrain their development. Each man in a community judges his neighbor, not by his own practice, but by his theories. Idea of right and wrong; and the sum of such individual judgments constitutes Public Opinion. In due time, this Opinion becomes embodied in the form of Law, which imposes its wholesome restraints on the very men whose aggregate opinions originated it, but whose individual practices, at times, under the impulse of bad passions, would, if unrestrained, inflict the wrongs the Law was designed to prevent. In this way, there may be steady social progress, while individual men remain imperfect, still subject to "lust warring in their members." In other words, the effects of Sin, so far as Society is concerned, may be abated, and, in some cases, may be prevented, though Sin still exists in the members of Society. No sensible advocate of specific reform movements expects an immediate millennium as the result of his labors.

Great social evils sometimes exist, not because there is not virtue enough in Society to remedy or mitigate them, but because that virtue is unorganized for efficient action, and not quickened and directed by enlightened Opinion. Before the era of Temperance reform, Intemperance was prevailing to a fearful extent; it threatened ruin to every class of the community. The first Temperance reformers knew that it had its origin in the appetite for stimulus, and that a perfect cure could not be hoped for till man should be made perfect. But they saw, too, that fashion, social arrangements, ignorance of the fatal tendencies of moderate drinking, of the effects of intoxicating liquors on the human system, of its disastrous influence in the production of poverty, crime, lawlessness and social weakness, were all contributing to the aggravation of the evil. By enlightening the public, by alarming its fears, by arousing its conscience, and organizing its virtue in active opposition to Intemperance, they saw that, if they could not remedy it in every individual case, they would arrest its march as a national evil, make Temperance the rule, and Drunkenness the rare exception. This was the specific object of the Temperance reform. But, had the principle of the objection now made to the Peace movement been acted upon in this country, had all efforts to remedy Intemperance been abstained from as quixotic, because its cause was "lust" inherent in human nature, where would American Society now have been? Wallowing in the mire of Drunkenness. For, the life of intense excitement characteristic of the American People, attended as it must be by periods of exhaustion, which craves relief from artificial stimulus, is full of temptations to Intemperance.

The same lusts "war in the members" now which gave birth to the incessant wars that made the ancient world red with blood, and which subsequently convulsed Christendom for centuries. But, for a whole generation in this century, the Great Powers of Europe have been at peace. And who does not feel that the Public Opinion of the world is stronger now against the "dread abatement of war" than ever it was before? Why is this? Have men become saints? Is Sin eradicated? Has Human Nature lost its appetites, passions, interests? No—but Christianity has been humanizing mankind. Bloodshed is looked upon with more abhorrence—Life is held in higher regard than was formerly the case. Science, the arts, steam, the telegraph, have brought nations into closer fellowship, so that they understand each other better, sympathize with each other more. Commerce has multiplied and strengthened between them ties of mutual interest, which are forever silently, but powerfully, pleading against war. Great interests, unconnected with the ambition of rulers or resentments of Governments, have sprung up in every State, which require Peace, enjoin Forbearance, repress the spirit of Revenge, abhor War.

At such a crisis, the assembling of a Congress to consult upon the best means of settling in-

ternational Controversies, by peaceful methods, is what might be expected. It is one form in which the Public Opinion of the world in favor of Peace seeks to make its voice potential. Such Conventions do not expect to call into instant being the day of Millennium Glory. They do not calculate upon legislating man out of his passions and interests, but they would ascertain whether his passions may not be satisfied, and his interests adjusted, by a less absurd and inhuman mode than that of War. They would inquire whether agencies not yet tried might not be put in operation which would facilitate the settlement of difficulties between nations, lessen the liabilities of collision, promote pacific dispositions. In all this, what is there visionary, what repugnant to "sober common sense"? Is it not worth while to labor for a general agreement among the nations of Europe to reduce each its war establishment? Is it not worth an effort to direct public opinion against the morality of granting loans for war purposes? Is it unreasonable to endeavor to induce Governments to bind themselves to refer their mutual controversies, in the first instance, always to friendly arbitration?

Certainly, in all these ways, and by linking nations together through the bonds of a universal free trade and a universal system of cheap international postage, and by periodical Congresses of the wise and great of all parts of the world, to consult upon the great interests of Peace, much, very much may be done to hasten the day when the sword shall be beaten into a ploughshare, and the spear into a pruning-hook, and man shall no more war against his fellow-man.

For the National Era.

THESE KOSKUTH.

BY MARY IRVING.

It is well known that the wife of Kossuth is included in the list of American captives.

"My not true-hearted wife, my children, and my noble old mother, are wandering about Hungary. They will probably soon fall into the hands of the Austrians."

Kossuth's letter to Lord Palmerston.

God shield thee, helpless one!

For wanderst in the hands of heartless men—Hunted by hosts, and hopelessly alone, Thou lamb in the wolf's den!

Too well we know the eye That tracks thy footsteps in its vengeful claim; For Austria, in the world's worst memory, Hath won a meed of shame!

Here was the hand to crush Italy's bud of freedom long ago— And in the dungeons of the dungeon thou art now!

His hand the arm to grasp Him whom the nation never can forget— And chilling was the iron of her clasp On generous Lafayette.

Now, on a patriot's face That eye of fury in its lightning burns; To track the noble-hearted and the true, That arm of terror-thrust!

'Tis not thy fearful cries That break the blood of royalty— Like many a wanderer from clime to clime, Heir of his misery.

'Tis not that thou hast borne Treason in arms against a tyrant lord— 'Tis not that thou, slight, fragile form, hast worn The helmet of the sword.

But thou—thy treason fold Is folded in thy deep emotion's truth; Thy only crime, that thou art true, To love thy own betrayed Kossuth!

Ay! trusting woman's heart Hath beat defiance to a tyrant's wrath— And she hath lighted the avenging dart, To crush in his path!

'Bowed, but not broken-hearted,' With young children clinging to thy side, Thou wanderest o'er the scenes of days departed— Still in a dreamy pride.

And with that aged one, Whom, in the valley of life's setting sun, Followeth the form and slow.

Oh! could our hearts but hope A glad deliverance into life for thee! Could we but bear thee on our whirled path From crushing Tyranny!

Yet art thou proudly blest, That thou art free from gloom of destiny; Thou hast the key to the noblest trust: That beats for Liberty!

Over the ocean wave We call thee, where the heart may throbbeth true! Heaven spare thee to the "bravest of the brave!" Heaven guard thy own Kossuth!

OCTOBER 28, 1849.

THE FREE DEMOCRACY OF VERMONT.

A State Convention of the Free Democracy of Vermont was held at Montpelier on the 10th ult. Jefferson Kidder was chosen President, and several Vice Presidents and Secretaries were elected.

Mr. Stanbury, chairman of a committee to make nominations for a State Convention, reported the following:

"Resolved, That Edward D. Barber of Middlebury, Stephen Smith of Weston, Homer W. Weston of Montpelier, Asa O. Aldis of St. Albans, and Jefferson P. Kidder of Randolph. The report was accepted and adopted by the Convention."

Mr. Barber, from the Committee on Resolutions, reported a long series, which was adopted with great unanimity. We have room only for the following:

"Resolved, That Liberty is the equal birthright of all mankind, without distinction of color or race."

"Resolved, That slavery is the highest outrage upon the rights of man and upon the principles on which the Government of this Republic is based, which can be by any possibility exist."

"Resolved, That the Convention of this Convention, Congress has the constitutional power to abolish slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia, in American vessels on the high seas, in our national Territories, and in all places subject to the jurisdiction of Congress; and that we demand of the Federal Government to use, without delay, all its constitutional power to abolish slavery where it exists under its jurisdiction, and to prevent its extension beyond its present limits, to the end that this Government may be divorced from all support and sanction of this wrong, and we be absolved from all responsibility therefor."

"Resolved, That we demand a cheaper system of postage, the abolition of the postmaster's office salaries; the election of postmasters and other civil officers, so far as may be practicable, by the people; a retrenchment of the expenses and patronage of the Federal Government; and that we recommend the grant to actual settlers of reasonable portions of the public lands at the cost of survey and transfer."

"Resolved, That we will contend for the general principle of general and impartial over special and monopolizing legislation—for the strict accountability of all public functionaries and public institutions to the people or their representatives—for the restriction of corporate powers, their subjection to the control of the people, and placing proper guards upon them for the safety of individuals and the public—for the prompt removal of all abuses—for the education of all the children of the State—and for the adoption of all measures that are calculated to protect the rights of the individual, and promote the improvement and character of the people."

"Resolved, That, believing the question of slavery, its extension and influence in the Government, to be the great and all-absorbing issue of the time, the Free Democracy of Vermont, reiterating the conviction expressed on the 31st of May, that the question of a national bank, an independent treasury, and the distribution of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands, have been settled by the people, hereby renew their pledge to resist every attempt to revive for partisan purposes the existing policy of the country in relation to them."

"Resolved, That we are in favor of a tariff which will raise revenue sufficient to defray the expenses of the Government economically administered, to the end that the Government may be divorced from all support and sanction of this wrong, and we be absolved from all responsibility therefor."

"Resolved, That in support of these PRINCIPLES we have come together, and that we hereby pledge ourselves to vote for no man who is not ready at all times to vote and maintain these principles, and also ready, irrespective of all former party ties, to sustain those only who avow reasonable and moderate measures."

The Convention was, at different stages of the

proceedings, addressed by Judge Parker of Bradford, Judge Briggs of Richmond, Hon. Titus Hutchinson of Woodstock, E. A. Stanbury of Burlington, Vilas, Bartlett, Cheney, Sampson, and others.

THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES IN NEW YORK.

Messrs. Vail, Whitmore, Stevens, Chase, and other Democrats of Lockport, New York, under date of October 10th, addressed to each of the State candidates of the Democracy the following questions:

"We would therefore respectfully request your opinion—

"1st. As to the power of Congress to prohibit slavery in the territories belonging to the United States.

"2d. As to the duty of Congress to prevent, by express law, the existence of slavery in the territories acquired from Mexico.

"3d. As to the propriety of Congress abolishing the slave trade in the District of Columbia immediately, and of abolishing slavery therein by proper and just laws."

LEVI S. CHAFFIELD, the Hunker nominee for the Attorney Generalship, in a letter, dated October 22d, replies explicitly and manfully, as follows:

"In answer, I have to say that I have no doubt that Congress possesses full and plenary power to prohibit the introduction of slavery into the Territories of the United States, and, in my opinion, it is the duty of Congress so to exercise that power as effectually to prevent the existence of slavery therein; that Congress, having exclusive legislative power in the District of Columbia, should take the necessary steps to abolish slavery and the slave trade therein at the earliest practicable period, consistent with justice and good faith. It would be a source of supreme gratification to me to witness the last vestige of slavery expelled from the capital of this free Republic."

This reply is the more remarkable, as coming from one of the Hunker candidates.

BARNABY WELLES, nominated by the Barnburners as State Treasurer, and adopted by the Hunkers, replies, October 15th:

"I have no doubt that Congress possesses the power, under the Constitution, to prohibit slavery in the Territories of the United States; and that it is its duty to prevent, by positive legislative enactment, its introduction there. I also believe that Congress should take the necessary steps to abolish slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia, by the passage of proper and just laws. It is disgraceful to the Republic that human beings are bought and sold under the eyes of the representatives of a free people."

"These opinions, you will permit me to add, are not those of the occasion which has elicited them. From the moment the question of slavery extension was first brought prominently before the American people, I have entertained and earnestly advocated these views; and I am happy in the belief that, with few exceptions, they are those of the Democratic party of the State."

HENRY S. RANDALL, nominated by the Barnburners as Secretary of State, and adopted by the Hunkers, replies, October 15th:

"I am of opinion that Congress has power to prohibit the introduction of slavery into Territories belonging to the United States. To the second, that it is the duty of Congress to carry into effect the existing laws of Mexico, by preventing its extension into the Territories we have acquired from that Government. To the third, that Congress, having exclusive legislative power over the District of Columbia, should take the necessary steps to abolish slavery and the slave trade therein at the earliest practicable period consistent with justice and good faith."

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, nominated by the Barnburners for the office of State Engineer, and adopted by the Hunkers, replies, October 17th:

"1st. I believe that Congress has the constitutional power to prohibit slavery in the Territories belonging to the United States.

"2d. I consider it the duty of Congress to exercise such power, and by legal enactment exclude slavery forever from the territories acquired from Mexico."

"3d. The passage of laws by Congress for the immediate prohibition of the slave trade, and, at the earliest practicable moment, the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, are, in my opinion, measures demanded by every consideration of justice and national honor."

DARLES CLARK, Hunker candidate for the office of State Prison Inspector, replies, October 15th:

"The constitutional question which you propose, I do not feel myself competent to answer. I am opposed to the extension of slavery in any and every form. We all agree that the Territories recently acquired from Mexico are free, and I believe that if Congress has no constitutional power to keep them free, that the Constitution is defective. I cannot for a moment doubt; but to (say the least) that it is the duty of Congress or the legislative branch of government, as well as the executive branch, to keep those Territories free, and I believe that all and every effort to introduce slavery into the Territories should be put down, and I cannot doubt but there is constitutional power sufficient for this."

"As it regards slavery in the District of Columbia, my opinion is, that if Congress has the constitutional power to abolish slavery or the slave trade there, that it should do so. The constitutional question now, I will not decide. Were I a candidate for Congress, I should decide. Congress itself is the proper and best tribunal, and with their decision I must be content."

We have not seen the answers of the other candidates. The *Union Observer* is extremely indignant at the conduct of the candidates in declining to reply to these interrogatories.

THE COLORED POPULATION IN CANADA.

It is estimated by some that the colored population of Canada is from ten to fifteen thousand. The *African Repository* of January last gives the following table, copied from a census taken a year before:

Provinces.	Males.	Females.
Bathurst	6	-
Brook	108	97
Colborne	25	23
Dalhousie	4	14
London	13	27
Gore	417	311
Home	400	463
Huron	42	35
Johnstown	33	7
London	374	106
Midland	36	25
New Castle	46	65
Niagara	413	392
Ottawa	11	12
Prince Edward	13	171
Simcoe	183	171
Talbot	46	38
Victoria	16	35
Wellington	241	194
Western	557	425
Total	3,108	2,463
Total of both sexes	-	5,571

The fact that the larger portion of the emigration from the slave States consists of male slaves, accounts for the great excess in the table above of males over females. The *Repository*, after publishing the above table, subjects the following remarks:

"This extract from the census of 1847 has been obtained for us by a friend, at the proper office in Montreal, from a person who furnished it, in reply to our questions. I have obtained from general observation, that, deducting one-fifth of the children under ten years of age, three-fourths of the remainder are natives of the United States."

Three-fourths would be 3,342, and of these probably 3,000 have escaped from slavery. This certainly falls far below the usual estimates.

NEGRO MECHANICS.

A meeting of the journeymen mechanics of the town of Petersburg, Virginia, was held on the 20th ultimo, the object of which was to oppose the competition brought about by the employment of Negro Mechanics. We copy from the *Republican* the following preamble and resolutions, which were adopted at the meeting, and ordered to be published:

"We would regard the right of property, and the privilege of the owner to employ slaves, as honest labor, our sense of self-respect demands that we put place, esteem and maintain ourselves a distinct society, and not associates of the Negro. Therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we regard the teaching of any negro any branch of the mechanic arts as prejudicial to the interests and injurious to the morals of the laboring white man."

"2. That we whose names are heretofore annexed, will not work for any employer who shall teach a negro into his employ, for the purpose of teaching said negro any branch of the mechanic arts."

"3. That each member is at liberty to engage with any employer using his own slave at the

business, provided they be not purchased or provided in any way subsequent to this time.

"4. That no person shall be a member of this society, for our rights, as stated in the preamble. Signed by the Committee."

A striking illustration of the inevitable antagonism between Slave Labor and Free—an antagonism that will become more mischievous as the number of slaves increases beyond the point of profitable employment in agriculture. These free mechanics see that the owners of slave mechanics can under-work them, and they feel, too, that the employment of slaves in this character degrades the mechanical arts in public estimation. Wherever they are numerous enough, they will undoubtedly succeed in preventing slaves from being thus employed, and the result will be, that when the Southwestern markets are closed, slave labor will become so worthless that emancipation will be unavoidable. In other sections, where the free mechanics are too few to contend successfully against the owners of slaves, they will be driven out, slaves will be educated in the mechanic arts, and in time become too intelligent to be held in slavery.

For the National Era.

ON PARTING WITH A POET.

BY MISS ALICE CAREY.

All the sweet summer that is gone,
Two paths I sighed to mark—
One brightly leading up and on,
One downward to the dark.

No pathway overgrown my heart,
No valley left to me—
Yet knew I that our paths must part,
The lofter one be thine.

